

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

IGA-02 TRSE-00 /064 W

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R 241122Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DSAA WASHDC//ISA

CINCPAC HON

JUSMAG MANILA,PI//AF SEC

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, TH, ID, RP

SUBJ: DISPOSITION OF EX-RLAF T-28 AIRCRAFT

REF: A) STATE 288544 (DTG 061732Z DEC 75), B) BANGKOK 26001 (DTG 131104Z DEC 75), C) BANGKOK 26081 (DTG 151143Z DEC 75), D) MANILA 17559 (DTG 160808Z DEC 75), E) BANGKOK 26486 (DTG 191129Z DEC 75), F) STATE 300176 (DTG 200941Z DEC 75), G) COMUSMACTHAI (DTG 221040Z DEC 75), H) JAKARTA 15691, (DTG 231010Z DEC 75) I) BANGKOK 20332 (DTG 26094Z SEPT 75) J) BANGKOK 20630 (DTG 301042 SEPT 75)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, EMBASSY/MACHTHAI WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE 14 EX-RLAF T-28D AIRCRAFT FOR DELIVERY TO THE PHILIPPINES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THIS WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF WE CAN OFFER TO SUPREME COMMAND AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL THAT WILL GO SOME WAY TOWARD MEETING THE RTAF PROBLEM WHICH SUPREME COMMAND WAS TRYING TO SOLVE BY RETAINING THE 14 LAOTIAN T-28S.

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2. THE T-28 FLEET OF THE RTAF, IF FLOWN AT THE PRE-SENT USAGE RATE, WILL BE REDUCED BY 12-14 AIRCRAFT DURING THE NEXT 6-8 MONTHS. THIS WILL RESULT FROM REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HOURS AT WHICH THE WING MODIFICATION IS REQUIRED. AS OF NOW, NO WING MODIFICATION KITS (TCTO 595) ARE AVAILABLE OTHER THAN THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE PAF.

3. IT IS THIS WING MOD PROBLEM WHICH HAS CAUSED SUPREME COMMAND TO REQUEST RETENTION OF THE MODIFIED EX-RLAF T-28S FOR THEIR USE. WE BELIEVE THAT IF MODIFICATION KITS COULD BE PROVIDED TO RTAF, SUPREME COMMAND MIGHT BE WILLING TO RELEASE THE EX-LAO AIRPLANES FOR SHIPMENT TO RP, ESPECIALLY IF WE CAN ALSO OFFER THE FIVE H-34'S (REF G). (WE NOTE JAKARTA'S MESSAGE (REF H) STATING THAT GOI MIGHT WANT THESE H-34'S IF IN GOOD CONDITION. AS STATED REFS 1 AND J, CONDITION OF THESE AIRCRAFT IS POOR.) PROVISION OF THE T-28 WING MOD KITS WOULD NOT ONLY ALLOW THE THAI TO UPGRADE THEIR OWN FLEET BUT OFFER THE FRINGE BENEFIT OF PROVIDING WORK FOR THE THAI-AM FACILITY THROUGH AN TRG CONTRACT.

4. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER THE THAI 14 MODIFICATION KITS TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE PAF TO THE RTAF, IN RETURN FOR THAI COOPERATION IN THE SHIPMENT OF THE EX-LAO T-28S, AT NO COST AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SUCH AN OFFER, IF MADE, SHOULD INCLUDE A 10-DAY ANSWER REQUIREMENT. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THE OFFER TO THE RTG OF THE FIVE H-34'S.

5. EVEN WITH THE OFFER OF THE 14 WING MODIFICATION KITS AND THE H-34'S, IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT SUPREME COMMAND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A SWAP IN WHICH RTAF WOULD RETAIN THE 14 MODIFIED EX-RLAF T-28 D'S AND TURN IN 14 UNMODIFIED T-28D'S CURRENTLY IN THE RTAF INVENTORY. HOWEVER, WITH THESE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE RTAF, WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE GOODS.
WHITEHOUSE

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